



Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

Date: Weds December 14, 2022 **Time:** 7:30 PM

Location: Meeting was conducted via hybrid meeting process both in person and remotely, via Zoom application:
In person meeting will be in Arlington Town Hall Annex, second floor conference room.

Attendance: In Room Ed Trembley, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly; Zoom: Tree Warden Tim Lecuivre, Eliza Burden, Susan Stamps, Mara Vatz, Guests: Grant Cook, Beth Melofchick, Mike Gildesgame (Conservation Commission)

1. *Approve Regular Meeting Minutes*

- October and November ATC Minutes – October 12 minutes were APPROVED; Oct 19 and Nov 9 minutes were not approved due to time constraints

2. *Department of Public Works (DPW) Tree Division Update (Tim) -*

- Tree Bylaw activity
 - 28 Hathaway Circle (Alpha Construction). Tear down. Alpha's first time doing a tree plan. Smooth process. No tree removals planned.
- Tree hearing(s) – Still awaiting appeal to Select Board for 261 Hillside Ave
- Tree health/management news
 - Spotted Lanternfly
 - Beech Leaf Disease
 - **Action:** Susan offered to write up something about these conditions that could be distributed by YourArlington.
- Tree Watering. This year, due to extreme heat and drought, we lost trees if watering of new trees stopped for just a week or more
 - **Action:** Steve to review Request/Answer center sign up form to ensure requesters understand that they commit to watering and should find a neighbor/friend to assume watering duties if on vacation

3. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- Outreach to Planning Dept – Susan has had conversations with David Morgan to discuss how trees/streetscapes/heat island mitigation can be part of a broader town-wide eco-planning effort not just Tree Committee
- ATC Outreach to Town orgs. (ARB, ConComm, Open Space, Park & Rec, School Comm., ZBA, Select Board, etc.) and updates on projects/policy involving trees
 - Con Comm coming to our meetings is great. ConComm's Wetland Regulations are in draft form and will share with ATC
 - Susan outreach to Gene Benson about potential Zoning By Law changes
 - Concern over reducing Open Space requirement in Commercial Development. Adding trees needs to be prioritized as way to enhance out streetscapes and address heat islands
 - Wants to see comprehensive approach to open space and trees in town projects
 - Steve and MEA at in-person 5 Dec. ARB meeting: ARB receiving proposals to reducing open space and set back requirements for zoning changes for 2023 town meeting. Discussions of open space/green space moving to roof tops/balconies as alternatives
- Public Land Mgmt Plan forum, Dec 12
 - Eliza gave a brief report on the meeting
 - MEA circulated a copy of the Report (over 300 pages) asking for ATC input
 - Plan states that the Tree Warden and DPW are responsible for all trees on public land. Is this a true statement? **Action:** ATC members make comments on a document in Dropbox

and Tim to review doc to make sure expectation of tree warden's responsibilities are realistic

- Arlington Planning Dept has been proactive with the ATC and other committees in notifying in advance of relevant town projects
- Beth M commented that careful examination of each description of the parks should be undertaken and enhanced. She suggests the report missed the mature trees on Hill's Hill, and Cooke's Hollow and several features of Menotomy Rocks.

- Update Tree Mgmt Plan

- The Selectboard has suggested to ATC that it might be time to update our Mgmt Plan since it is about turn 5 years old. The Selectboard uses this plan to guide their decisions
 - How to go about it – add ideas to a central document – **Action:** *Eliza to start a centralized document and Keith will collaborate*
 - Update what has changed:
 - By Law Updates
 - Targeting tree planting using urban Heat Islands map and Tree Equity map
 - “Setback Planting” program; DCR is advocate of this approach
 - Planting based on article 16
 - Tree Canopy Program
 - Coordinate with the rest of the town organization
 - Include above information and review other relevant tree management plans for other towns

- Eliza has corresponded w Mike Ciampa to discuss private tree canopy concerns and how we can accomplish more effective tree education through the building permit process. Exploring how projects that do not have to comply with the Bylaw should be:
 - following the INTENT of the Bylaw which is to preserve tree canopy
 - consulting with a CERTIFIED arborist when planning a project and/or when tree issues arise.

- **By Law Updates**

- Susan had sent out a document to ATC as a brainstorming document. Any prospective by-law changes should not add to Tree Warden's workload. Can we press for a deputy tree warden? Priority propositions:
 - Consider expanding to all trees on private property – would add to DPW workload
 - Reconsider tree planting option with accountability for survival – hybrid – Tim has reservations
 - Require irrigation system
 - Assurity Bond – canceled after three years – common practice for other contract obligations
 - Replacement of dbh or 2:1 or 3:1 replacement and minimum size requirement for planting
 - Goal: achieve replacement of tree canopy where trees were lost
 - Mike Gildesgame – Con Comm is working on finalizing mitigation regulations; survival requirement with inspection / enforcement – some conditions permanent, some three years. Mike G to follow up with David Morgan/Susan to ensure consistency between ATC and ConCom
 - Trees Please Funds – discussion to include Mike R
 - Idea of Tree bylaw trees replaced within a calendar year – would need to include Mike R in discussion
- **Action:** *Subcommittee to discuss gameplan for January. Warrant article due end of January*

4. *Watering Trees in Town Update –*

- Hiring interns or contractors
- Adopt-A-Tree program; Briefly discussed ways to increase student involvement (AHS and AC in the spring by promoting more widely for community service hours. **Action:** *present a certificate to the student that helped this summer and try to film by ACMI and then publicize*

5. *Expanding Tree Planting in Town Update*

- Community Canopy program. Continue in spring 2023 using Trees Please funds. Discussion of how to make it more visible by possibly creating an Arbor Day Pop up tree event on Mass Ave. Combine with Tree Canopy Planting Day! Increase tree visibility. Include students. Partner w a business and Chamber of Commerce?
- Back of Sidewalk “Setback” planting efforts. Many municipalities already have adopted this approach. DCR has been advocating for this approach. **Action:** *Susan will work with Doug Heim to finalize a document that allows for this*

6. *New Business*

- Briefly discussed doing additional Tree Inventory work in open spaces, especially those being considered for any type of landscape “improvement”

Next Meeting: January 11, 2022

Meeting Adjourned: 9:24

Note on hybrid meeting process –

- 1) Any noise in room interrupts the people on the Zoom portion.
- 2) What if a chair is sick and not be present in the room as is required
- 3) Default Only Displays those on camera. How can we show everyone in the meeting?
- 4) Set up has been very inconsistent and slow connection
 - a. Start wall assembly first – give it time
 - b. Then do neat pad